

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5918

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5918 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 6021

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6021 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 6319

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6319 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 6424

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6424 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5081. A bill to establish an Office of Environmental Justice within the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Empowering and Enforcing Environmental Justice Act to improve efforts at the Department of Justice to hold polluters accountable and to build capacity at State, local,

and Tribal governments to do the same.

The Empowering and Enforcing Environmental Justice Act builds on the recent announcement by the Department of Justice to launch a new Office of Environmental Justice. My bill would make this new office permanent and authorize \$50 million in grant funding to assist State, local, and Tribal governments with their own environmental enforcement efforts. It would also create a new Section for Environmental Justice within the Environment and Natural Resources Division to bring cases for violations of environmental laws in low-income communities and communities of color burdened by pollution.

Environmental hazards like air, water, and land pollution disproportionately affect communities that have been historically marginalized, such as Tribal communities, low-income populations, and communities of color. Many of these communities have been further neglected by decades of underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and healthcare. The codification of a permanent Office of Environmental Justice will ensure that DOJ coordinates with Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies to advance environmental justice and will give communities a seat at the table where decisions impacting their communities are being made. Further, a permanent Environmental Justice Section will help ensure that environmental justice is at the forefront of DOJ's enforcement work while improving enforcement of title VI of the Civil Rights Act to investigate civil rights complaints related to environmental justice.

Finally, the new grant program this legislation would establish would improve the capacity of State, local, and Tribal agencies to launch their own environmental enforcement efforts—which is necessary for a whole-of-government approach to reversing environmental injustice.

Enforcement of our Nation's bedrock environmental laws cannot be something that ebbs and flows between administrations but must be a constant commitment from the Federal Government to protecting the communities most over-exposed to pollution. Enacting this legislation will guarantee a long-term commitment by the Federal Government to advancing environmental justice and to building healthier, cleaner communities.

I am grateful to Representative BARRAGAN for leading this effort in the House of Representatives, and I am thankful that the Department of Justice is willing to prioritize defending environmental justice. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this bill as quickly as possible.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 830—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 24, 2022, TO OCTOBER 31, 2022, AS “BAT WEEK”

Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 830

Whereas bats are vital to the sustainability of natural ecosystems, national economies, and human health by controlling damaging insect pests, pollinating plants that produce fruits and vegetables, dispersing seeds to ensure healthy functioning forests and fields, and saving farmers in the United States more than \$3,000,000,000 in pest control every year;

Whereas bats have captured the human imagination through backyard sightings, folklore, art, myths, and legends, making outreach and education about the importance of bats instrumental;

Whereas bats are present throughout the world, except in extremely cold regions, and are the second-largest order of mammals with over 1,400 species;

Whereas white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that has killed millions of bats in North America, has now spread to 38 States and 12 species of hibernating bats;

Whereas the disease has caused significant declines in populations of the tricolored bat, the little brown bat, and the northern long-eared bat, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

Whereas the Department of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Geological Survey, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management is leading the international response to the disease in partnership with the United States Forest Service and more than 150 Federal and State agencies, Tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and universities;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service co-lead the multinational, multi-agency North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat) which since 2015 has consolidated nearly 68,000,000 records from partners in 49 States, 8 Canadian provinces, and 10 Tribal organizations, demonstrating the power of collaborative conservation science to monitor changes in North American bat populations;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey conducts scientific research on bats, which helps resource managers and policymakers make informed decisions regarding the conservation of bats across North America; and

Whereas, in the past decade, the international partnership of States, Tribes, Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and institutions has made extraordinary progress to understand white-nose syndrome, slow the spread, and develop treatments that hold promise for ending this epidemic: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of “Bat Week”;

(2) encourages the observance of Bat Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the important role bats play as pollinators and pest control for agriculture; and